

Remarks

Claims 34 has been cancelled without prejudice to the filing of continuing applications. New claims 41 and 42 have been added. The remaining dependent claims have been made properly dependent on new claim 41.

Support for the new claims is found throughout the specification. New claim 41 is based on original claim 34 and includes a limitation that the alkoxylation with propylene oxide is carried out in the presence of a double metal cyanide catalyst. Support for the propylene oxide amounts in claims 42 and 43 are found in the specification. For example, see original claim 34. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. Applicants also note that claim 41 parallels claim 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,569,352, which is the patent that issued from the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/427,050.

The claims as amended overcome the rejections based on the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are not rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,750,580 (Mayer et al.) taken alone or further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,670,601 (Allen et al.). Applicants note that claim 41 parallels claim 7 of the '352 patent and, since claim 41 adds a limitation as to the catalyst, claim 41 is likewise patentable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowance of the claims and passage of the case to issue are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe a discussion of this matter would be helpful, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: May 7, 2004

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